

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER 4829

JUN 10 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing below of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (allowed): A method for combustion of a fuel with an oxidant in a heating furnace, wherein the fuel and the oxidant are delivered to a burner head, said method comprising: a first step of emitting fuel and oxidant from the burner head in close proximity to each other, so that combustion occurs adjacent to the burner head and for a time until a temperature that exceeds a spontaneous combustion temperature of the fuel is reached within the furnace; and a second ~~method~~ step of thereafter emitting the fuel and the oxidant from the burner head at a mutual distance apart, so that combustion occurs at a point spaced from and outwardly of the burner head at a distance of at least a diameter of the burner head, wherein the fuel is emitted from a fuel nozzle in the burner head, and wherein the oxidant is a gaseous oxidant that has an oxygen content of at least about 80% and is delivered at an overpressure of at least 2 bar and is only emitted through oxidant outlet openings located on a side of and spaced from the fuel nozzle at a distance that exceeds half the diameter of the burner head.

Claim 2 (allowed): A method according to claim 1, wherein in the first step the fuel is emitted from a fuel nozzle in the burner head, and the oxidant is emitted concentrically around said fuel nozzle.

1829

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (allowed): A method according to claim 1, including the step of using oil as the fuel.

Claim 8 (allowed): A method according to claim 1, including the step of using at least one of natural gas and propane as the fuel.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)